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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ANGELIKA BAUER - 1
SERIAL NO: 10/816,300
FILED: APRIL 1, 2004 GROUP: 3751
TITLE: FUEL TANK CLOSURE

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Supplementing the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2004 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed November 1, 2004, Applicant submits herewith a concise explanation of the relevance as it is currently understood of DE 195 17 542 A1 which was cited in the European Search Report and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed November 1, 2004.

DE 195 17 542 A1 discloses a gas cap assembly which is actuated by an electric motor. The gas cap is a screw cap 36 which is to be screwed onto the fuel inlet in order to close the

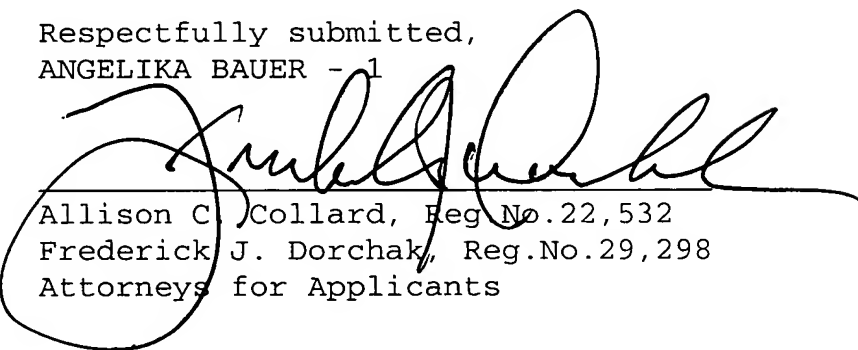
inlet. The gas cap is rotatably supported by a retainer 38. The retainer is supported in a bearing 28 which extends in tangential direction to the fuel inlet orifice such that the gas cap can be swung around the axis of the bearing 28 away from the inlet orifice in order to provide access to the fuel inlet and can be swung back onto the fuel inlet in order to close it. In the bearing 28, there is provided a worm gear 26 which matches with teeth 32 provided at the outer surface of the screw cap. The worm gear can be rotated by the electric motor.

When the worm gear is rotated, the gas cap is rotated within the retainer around its own axis so that it can be screwed onto or unscrewed from the fuel inlet. When the gas cap has been unscrewed from the gas inlet it reaches an end abutment which stops the gas cap from rotating further about its own axis. The further rotation of the worm gear causes then the gas cap to swing around the axis of the bearing 28 so that it is moved away from the fuel inlet. Closing of the fuel inlet is achieved by actuating the motor in the opposite direction, so that the gas cap swings back on the fuel inlet and then rotates around its own axis in order to screw the gas cap onto the fuel inlet.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a first Office Action, it is believed that no fee is due. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account Number 03-2468.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered and placed into the application file.

Respectfully submitted,
ANGELIKA BAUER - 1



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 28, 2005.



Maria Guastella